

Veranstalter	PD Dr. Monika Pietrzak-Franger
Thema	Cultures of Health: Representation and Stigmatization [ENG-6, ENG-6a, ENG-12, AA7, AA10, LAA9, LAA12, AA-MA3, AA-MA4]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-550
Zeit	Di 16-18
Raum	Ü35-01054
Beginn	2. April 2019

Course description

Ludmila Jordanova argues that “medicine is [...] a form of visual culture, as well as being an integral part of other visual cultures” (90). This fundamental intertwining of medical practice, representational traditions and scopic regimes is as old as medicine itself. At the same time, medicine, especially certain depictions of health and disease, are central to our culture and to how we define ourselves. It is this interlacing which constitutes the focus of our study. In this seminar, we will ask how medical concepts have been made visible through and in a variety of media. We will ask in how far discourses around body, gender, race and class inform these practices. These questions will be accompanied by more fundamental queries concerning the representation of (personal and national) identities and the stigmatization of certain conditions.

The interdisciplinary methodological framework of visual culture studies (e.g. W. J. T. Mitchell, Rosalind Krauss, Nicholas Mirzoeff etc.) will help us analyze various case studies. We will also become acquainted with a number of historically specific representation strategies and a plethora of texts (e.g. dermatological atlases, paintings, sculptures, (Röntgen) photographs, films, museums, TV series, performance art, literary and medical works.

If you are interested in the ways in which we make sense of our bodies and our selves you are very much welcome to participate in this seminar. Make sure you don't faint at the sight of blood.

Please mark that those who fail to attend the first class without excuse lose their place in the seminar.